

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 11053 01 OF 02 281114Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SAA-01
SES-02 SSM-05 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 ACDA-12 HA-05 /101 W
-----124787 281117Z /11

O 281102Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5163
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 11053

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PMOPS, LE, SY, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON

1. THE AUGUST 28 ISRAELI PRESS FRONT-PAGES STATEMENTS BY
CHAIRMAN OF THE KNESSET DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COM-
MITTEE MOSHE ARENS AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL
ALLON ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON AND THE ROLE
ISRAEL SHOULD PLAY. ALLON, CHAIRMAN OF THE KNESSET DE-
FENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE ON LEBANON,
ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT HE AND ARENS WOULD HOLD AN URGENT
MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER TODAY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 11053 01 OF 02 281114Z

IN ORDER TO NOTIFY THEM OF THE VIEWS AND DECISIONS AR-
RIVED AT BY HIS SUB-COMMITTEE FOLLOWING ITS DISCUSSIONS
OF "AN INTERESTING AND TROUBLING REPORT" ON DEVELOPMENTS
IN LEBANON. ALLON STATED THE SYRIAN ARMY INTENDS TO SLICE
MOUNT LEBANON IN HALF AND THREATEN THE LEBANESE MARONITES'
ACCESS TO THE SEA, CUTTING THEM OFF FROM ANY CONTACT WITH
THE OUTSIDE WORLD. THE SUB-COMMITTEE FEELS THAT THIS IS

AN URGENT THREAT. ALLON ADDED THAT ADDITIONAL U.S. AND FRENCH EFFORTS TO HELP THE CHRISTIANS ARE NECESSARY. THE VATICAN SHOULD ALSO BE INFORMED OF THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION, ALLON STATED.

2. MOSHE ARENS EXPRESSED A SIMILAR VIEW IN AN AUGUST 27 RADIO INTERVIEW, STRESSING THAT BOTH HE AND ALLON WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER WHAT THEIR INTENTIONS ARE FOR ENDING SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON. THE "JERUSALEM POST" QUOTES ARENS AS SAYING THAT "ISRAEL SHOULD INTERVENE FORCEFULLY, IF NEED BE, IN LEBANON TO SAVE THE CHRISTIAN POPULATION THERE. . ." ARENS ADDED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE U.S. AND EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SERVE AS A COVER FOR A SYRIAN ONSLAUGHT IN LEBANON.

3. DAVAR NOTES THAT MANY MK'S FROM THE "COALITION AND OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN IN THE FACE OF THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S PERSONAL STAND ON THIS SUBJECT, WHICH WAS MADE KNOWN IN REPORTS BY NEWSMEN CLOSE TO MR. WEIZMAN. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, THE MARONITES ARE ACCUSED OF 'PROVOCATIONS AGAINST THE SYRIAN ARMY' - WHILE ALL OTHER ISRAELI ELEMENTS FEEL THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE. IT IS THE SYRIAN ARMY THAT IS ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE AND CUT OFF THE MARONITES FROM THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS. DUE TO RESERVATIONS ON UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEL AV 11053 01 OF 02 281114Z

THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S STAND, IT WAS DECIDED YESTERDAY TO GO OVER HIS HEAD AND APPROACH THE PRIME MINISTER, AND, MOREOVER, TO MAKE THIS FACT PUBLIC." MAARIV STATES THAT "THE VIEW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE IS THAT, UNLESS A STOP IS PUT TO THE SYRIAN ATTACK, ISRAEL'S SECURITY SITUATION WILL BE CONSIDERABLY WORSENER BECAUSE OF SYRIA'S TAKEOVER OF ALL OF LEBANON. THAT MUST BE AVERTED AT ALL COSTS, EVEN IF IT MEANS ACTIVE INTERVENTION."

4. IN AN AUGUST 27 MAARIV COMMENTARY, SEGEV DESCRIBES "THE CAUTIOUS APPROACH BY THE BEGIN-DAYAN-WEIZMAN TRIO" AS FOLLOWS: "MATERIAL OR MORAL AID - YES; PREMEDITATED WAR AGAINST THE SYRIANS - NO." SEGEV EXPLAINS, HOWEVER, THAT THIS POSITION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL OF ISRAEL'S POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT. "THERE ARE ELEMENTS IN ISRAEL WHO BELIEVE THAT, ASIDE FROM THE CONCERNS OF CAMILLE CHAMOUN, ISRAEL OUGHT TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION IN ORDER TO DEAL SYRIA A DECISIVE BLOW - BE IT FOR THE PURPOSE OF BREAKING THE SYRIAN WAR MACHINE OR TO MELLOW SYRIA'S POSITIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL. THE PROPONENTS OF THIS VIEW BELIEVE THAT EVEN

IF PRESIDENT ASSAD PERSEVERES IN HIS REFUSAL TO JOIN SADAT'S INITIATIVE AND CONDUCT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL, THEN A SERIOUS BLOW WILL INCAPACITATE THE ABILITY OF THE SYRIAN ARMY TO WAGE WAR AND WILL LIMIT ASSAD'S MANEUVERING SPACE IN HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST SADAT. THOSE WHO SUBSCRIBE TO THIS VIEW THINK THAT A DEATH BLOW TO THE SYRIAN WAR MACHINE WILL LIMIT THE ABILITY OF THE 'EASTERN FRONT' TO FUNCTION PROPERLY, FACILITATING THE REMOVAL OF THE DANGER OF WAR FOR MANY YEARS."

5. YEDIOT REPORTS TODAY THAT "THE SITUATION IN LEBANON IS DETERIORATING; SYRIA IS SENDING IN REINFORCEMENTS;

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 11053 02 OF 02 281115Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 SAA-01 SES-02
SSM-05 ACDA-12 HA-05 /101 W
-----124803 281117Z /11

O 281102Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5164
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 TEL AVIV 11053

CONSULTATIONS IN JERUSALEM." THE REPORT STATES THAT TWO MAIN VIEWS PREVAIL IN ISRAEL TODAY: SOME BELIEVE ISRAEL SHOULD REACT WITH ALL HER MIGHT AGAINST THE SYRIAN ARMY IN LEBANON, AVAILING HERSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO BREAK ITS BACKBONE; OTHERS SUGGEST THAT THIS IS NOT THE RIGHT TIME FOR EMBARKING ON A CONFRONTATION

WITH THE SYRIANS. HART

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV11053
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780350-1209
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780815/aaaaamxf.tel
Line Count: 170
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a318635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1597037
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI PRESS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, LE, SY, IS, (ALLON, YIGAL), (ARENS, MOSHE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a318635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014